



If even large print is not big enough, there is help -- and it's free

If you or a loved one struggle to read even large print, or perhaps physically holding a book is difficult, there is help -- and it's free for Idahoans.

The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) is an audiobook library service that is convenient and available at no cost to any Idaho resident who is blind, has a perceptual or reading disability, or is unable to read standard print due to a visual impairment or physical disability.

Administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), the TBS loans audiobooks and magazines, braille books, and provides an easy-to-use player for the audio cartridges. Materials are mailed to and from the user's residence at no charge.

There are more than 100,000 titles in the collection -- everything from westerns and romance, to mysteries and biographies. Also available are titles with an Idaho theme or connection, which are recorded locally.

Each user's service can be as automated or personalized as the user and/or their family member or caregiver would like. Whether it means having materials mailed to an alternate address when the family heads south for the winter or increasing the frequency of books, the TBS customer service representatives help ensure the service meets the user's needs.

Another feature of the service is the Braille and Audio Recording Download, known as BARD, through which books and magazines can be downloaded directly to the user's device.

To utilize the service, a person must have a qualifying condition, which can be certified by a medical professional, social worker, librarian, or activities director in a care facility.

For more information about the TBS, visit the ICfL's website at: <https://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs> or call 800-458-3271.